



File Code: 1950

Date: August 16, 2002

SCOPING STATEMENT

USDA FOREST SERVICE
Shoshone National Forest
North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District
Park County, Wyoming

Dear Interested Party:

The Shoshone National Forest is considering a request from a special-use permit holder operating an outfitter/guide business to move an existing base camp to a new location.

The permittee, Lee Livingston, is proposing to move his existing Jones Creek camp approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the south to a new location along the North Fork River. Both the existing and proposed campsites are located in Township 53 North, Range 109 West, and Section 22.

The reasons for moving the camp include: 1) situating the camp in a location where green trees are available to block high winds; 2) water at the current location must be collected directly from either Jones Creek or the North Fork Shoshone River. There is a spring at the proposed new campsite that would provide higher water quality.

This proposal is located in Park County and the location would be about 55 miles west of Cody, Wyoming.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit written comments from all concerned parties. Your comments and suggestions are needed and encouraged. Project alternatives will be determined and environmental consequences analyzed during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process initiated by this scoping letter.

Introduction and Proposed Action

The proposed action is part of the special-use permit, where a decision is need to allow an existing outfitter/guide business to move their existing base camp a relatively short distance.

Alternatives will be developed to analyze the proposed action if deemed appropriate.

Legal description is Section 22, T53N, R109W, 6^h P.M., Park County. The attached map is a general location map showing the proposed activity area in Section 22.



Possible Alternatives

- No Action Alternative – Current management would continue and no base camp move would occur.
- Alternative area(s) would be analyzed if issues and concerns related to the proposed area are identified and could not be mitigated through permit stipulations.
- Proposed Action - The project would be authorized as proposed.

Preliminary Issues

- Possible conflicts with other activities in the area
- Effects on wildlife in and around the area

Nature of Decision

The target date for a decision is the September 2002.

The decision to be made is whether or not to implement the proposed action, or an alternative to the proposed action. Also, the decision could include what permit stipulations need to be applied to the proposed action. Based on public comment from this scoping notice and the appropriate level environmental analysis, the Forest Service must determine whether significant issues or concerns exist. If there are any, they will be addressed in the analysis and the eventual decision.

Contacts

The public is provided this opportunity to identify and submit issues and concerns they feel the Forest Service should address. To be most helpful, written comments need to be submitted no later than September 10, 2002. Describe what your concerns are and why and what you feel is important to be addressed in the environmental analysis. Comments should be as specific as possible to assist us in the analysis.

For further information, contact Thad Harper, Recreation, or Marty Sharp, NEPA Coordinator, 203 A Yellowstone Ave., Cody, Wyoming or telephone 307-527-6921. Comments can be mailed to North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District, 203 A Yellowstone Ave., Cody, WY 82414. Again, your comments are important to us.

Sincerely,

Brent L. Larson

BRENT L. LARSON
District Ranger